
HOUSE BILL No. 1346

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 3-5-2-31.5; IC 3-11.

Synopsis: First responder right to vote. Provides that a member of the military or public safety officer may vote an absentee ballot by mail. Provides that a member of the military or public safety officer who has signed the poll list and is called from the polls before voting to respond to an emergency in the voter's capacity as a member of the military or public safety officer is entitled to return to the polls and vote upon execution of an affidavit.

Effective: July 1, 2009.

Pearson

January 13, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on Elections and Apportionment.

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First Regular Session 116th General Assembly (2009)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1346

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning elections.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 3-5-2-31.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
3 1, 2009]: **Sec. 31.5. "Member of the military or public safety**
4 **officer" has the meaning set forth in IC 10-14-2-5.**

5 SECTION 2. IC 3-11-8-25.7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
6 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
7 1, 2009]: **Sec. 25.7. (a) This section applies only to a voter who is a**
8 **member of the military or public safety officer.**

9 **(b) Notwithstanding section 25.5 of this chapter, a voter who**
10 **signs the voter's name and either:**

11 **(1) signs the voter's address; or**

12 **(2) checks the "Address Unchanged" box;**

13 **on the poll list under section 25.1 of this chapter and then leaves**
14 **the polls without casting a ballot or after casting a provisional**
15 **ballot, may reenter the polls to cast a ballot at the election as**
16 **provided in this section.**

17 **(c) A voter who leaves the polls to respond to an emergency in**



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the voter's capacity as a member of the military or public safety officer must notify a precinct election officer that the voter is leaving the polls to respond to an emergency in the voter's capacity as a member of the military or public safety officer.

(d) A poll clerk or assistant poll clerk shall make a notation on the poll list with the voter's name indicating that the voter has left the polls as permitted by this section and the time the voter left the polls.

(e) If the voter returns to the polls, the voter shall be permitted to vote if the voter executes an affidavit stating all of the following:

(1) The name of the voter.

(2) That the voter is a member of the military or public safety officer.

(3) The military or public safety position the voter holds.

(4) That after the voter signed the poll list, but before the voter voted, the voter was called to respond to an emergency in the voter's capacity as a member of the military or public safety officer.

(5) A brief description of the emergency to which the voter responded.

(6) The time the voter returned to the polls.

(f) The commission shall prescribe the form of the affidavit required by this section.

SECTION 3. IC 3-11-10-24, AS AMENDED BY P.L.103-2005, SECTION 12, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009]: Sec. 24. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a voter who satisfies any of the following is entitled to vote by mail:

(1) The voter has a specific, reasonable expectation of being absent from the county on election day during the entire twelve (12) hours that the polls are open.

(2) The voter will be absent from the precinct of the voter's residence on election day because of service as:

(A) a precinct election officer under IC 3-6-6;

(B) a watcher under IC 3-6-8, IC 3-6-9, or IC 3-6-10;

(C) a challenger or pollbook holder under IC 3-6-7; or

(D) a person employed by an election board to administer the election for which the absentee ballot is requested.

(3) The voter will be confined on election day to the voter's residence, to a health care facility, or to a hospital because of an illness or injury during the entire twelve (12) hours that the polls are open.

(4) The voter is a voter with disabilities.

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(5) The voter is an elderly voter.

(6) The voter is prevented from voting due to the voter's care of an individual confined to a private residence because of illness or injury during the entire twelve (12) hours that the polls are open.

(7) The voter is scheduled to work at the person's regular place of employment during the entire twelve (12) hours that the polls are open.

(8) The voter is eligible to vote under IC 3-10-11 or IC 3-10-12.

(9) The voter is prevented from voting due to observance of a religious discipline or religious holiday during the entire twelve (12) hours that the polls are open.

(10) The voter is an address confidentiality program participant (as defined in IC 5-26.5-1-6).

(11) The voter is a member of the military or public safety officer.

(b) A voter with disabilities who:

(1) is unable to make a voting mark on the ballot or sign the absentee ballot secrecy envelope; and

(2) requests that the absentee ballot be delivered to an address within Indiana;

must vote before an absentee voter board under section 25(b) of this chapter.

(c) If a voter receives an absentee ballot by mail, the voter shall personally mark the ballot in secret and seal the marked ballot inside the envelope provided by the county election board for that purpose.

The voter shall:

(1) deposit the sealed envelope in the United States mail for delivery to the county election board; or

(2) authorize a member of the voter's household or the individual designated as the voter's attorney in fact to:

(A) deposit the sealed envelope in the United States mail; or

(B) deliver the sealed envelope in person to the county election board.

(d) If a member of the voter's household or the voter's attorney in fact delivers the sealed envelope containing a voter's absentee ballot to the county election board, the individual delivering the ballot shall complete an affidavit in a form prescribed by the commission. The affidavit must contain the following information:

(1) The name and residence address of the voter whose absentee ballot is being delivered.

(2) A statement of the full name, residence and mailing address, and daytime and evening telephone numbers (if any) of the

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individual delivering the absentee ballot.

(3) A statement indicating whether the individual delivering the absentee ballot is a member of the voter's household or is the attorney in fact for the voter. If the individual is the attorney in fact for the voter, the individual must attach a copy of the power of attorney for the voter, unless a copy of this document has already been filed with the county election board.

(4) The date and location at which the absentee ballot was delivered by the voter to the individual delivering the ballot to the county election board.

(5) A statement that the individual delivering the absentee ballot has complied with Indiana laws governing absentee ballots.

(6) A statement that the individual delivering the absentee ballot is executing the affidavit under the penalties of perjury.

(7) A statement setting forth the penalties for perjury.

(e) The county election board shall record the date and time that the affidavit under subsection (d) was filed with the board.

(f) After a voter has mailed or delivered an absentee ballot to the office of the circuit court clerk, the voter may not recast a ballot, except as provided in:

(1) section 1.5 of this chapter; or

(2) section 33 of this chapter.

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